

12/22/71

Dear Charlie, Jamie and Licky, lucky Gabriel,

Delighted, really, very delighted to hear from you! And so glad you are and have stayed married! I had feared you were hungup from abuse and unhappiness.

G must have dialed wrong. I was off on a long and in many ways my most successful trip, Tennessee, N.O., Dallas and elsewhere. Bill was landlocked. We are out of town, with no public transportation, and when I'm away she's marooned. She was here, all alone, for Thanksgiving. I was then in Dallas. Got there night before. No time for recounting of new successes, new openings, esp. there.

Hal has moved (753 1/2 Warfield, Oakland. For a while he had no phone. It is now 839-4671. He is also working. I hear from him little, but he is still the same swell fellow - something I can't say for most of your former L.A. associates, and you'd do well to continue the isolation. Without mentioning any names, which is unfair to the innocent, some were not your friends (as they also were not mine). They do nothing of worth, and what little they have done has been hurtful. I'm glad never to hear from them. Steve Burton was the exception, but he seems to have quit the world, gone real hippie. Never hear from him, either. To me this is tragic, for I had a high opinion of him and high hopes for him. But not for any kind of quitter. His disillusionment with Garrison undoubtedly triggered, but he wouldn't listen, so it was a greater shock to him.

I continue work, deeper in debt than ever, with less prospect, and I'm winding up the hottest work yet. Really. New stuff, never-before-seen - and not stolen! I've now got what was withheld from the Commission. It is kind of wearing, though, for I get older, more tired, and there is even less chance of commercial publication.

The publisher joined in the assault on my book on the King case. The real axing was by the NYTimes. It was seen almost nowhere, and the little promotion it got was in spite of the publisher. But Percy Foreman did flee a TV studio when he heard for the first time he was to confront me! Had half his makeup on - and he'd flown to NY from Texas just to get that free publicity. If you are interested in the book, I don't think it is available in most stores. I have some, but I had to buy them! It could have been something if the publisher had been willing after he started to get flack. As it is, it is another corpse. But it also is a gold record. If Ray gets a trial, this will have done it, as it should acquit - and perhaps bring pressure for a real solution.

I haven't seen any of Jamie's writing for some time. She may not remember how well I remember her first writing, and how rapidly it then improved. I could see the improvement in the few days I was there. So, by now, I would expect much from her. Give her a bigger squeeze than she gave me, for me, please.

Best to you all. Wish I thought there were some chance I'd be there soon. Have a good season and the best year,

Sincerely,